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PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PARAMETERS *Scaptotrigona* sp. (CANUDO-AMARELA) HONEYS (APIDAE: MELIPONINI) COLLECTED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BELTERRA, PARÁ STATE, BRAZIL

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The bee *Scaptotrigona* sp. (locally knows as canudo-amarela) produces high quality honey with good local market acceptance, however, their physical and chemical characteristics are unknown, the lack of these information impedes the definition of quality standards and thus slows their certified marketing. The objective of this study was to determine the physical and chemical characteristics of honey from canudo-amarela. The sample collection period was from September to December 2011, whenever possible the samples were kept refrigerated and transported in coolers containing ice. The average results of the physical and chemical parameters were: 73.03% total sugars, reducing sugars 70.99%, 62.88 meq.kg acidity, ash 0.08%, 2.96 meq.kg hydroxymethylfurfural, formol index 7.36 mL.kg, pH 3.68, protein 0.12%, 5.59% sucrose, soluble solids 71.94%, 26.61% moisture and a predominance of amber color among the samples. Most of the evaluated parameters was in accordance with the legislation for honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) except acidity, sucrose and moisture. The results show that the current legislation, based on standard of *Apis mellifera* honey, is not suitable for other species, reinforcing the urgent need to establish a specific standard for honey from stingless bees

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